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**MAR 25 2004**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
ASANO et al :  
Application No. 09/856,717 :  
Filed: February 19, 2002 :  
Attorney Docket No. 0230-0162P :  
NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL  
FROM ISSUE

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that the above-identified application, which has not received a patent number or an issue date, is being withdrawn from issue pursuant to 37 CFR 1.313.

The application is being withdrawn from issue to permit resolution of a 37 CFR 1.47(a) issue currently pending in the instant application. This withdrawal was requested by the Director of the Office of Petitions.

This application is being returned to the Office of PCT Legal Administration to await a reply to the decision on petition mailed March 16, 2004. Note that failure to timely reply will result in the abandonment of the application.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to Frances Hicks at (703) 305-8680.

Charles Pearson  
Director of the Office of Petitions